


# BULLETIN JULY 2006

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- To learn their habits and keep records.
- To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
- To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in W.A. orchids.
- To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- To do all such lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

*Note: The opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by this Group.*

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**REGISTRAR:**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 19th July 2006 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 19th July 2006 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park. The speaker is Dr Stephen Hopper and his topic is "WA Orchids in Retrospect".

### MEETING MINUTES

General & Committee minutes are not included in this newsletter because I have not received them.



## OFFICE BEARER POSITIONS

As advised in the June issue, in accordance with our Constitution the positions of Committee Member, Editor, and Registrar were required to be filled at the June Meeting.

Arising from the meeting there is still a vacancy for a Committee member, Noel Clarke volunteered to again be Editor providing certain assistance be provided, which it will be, and Ross Fox volunteered to try and learn the club computer for the Registrar, despite no previous experience. Tuition will start shortly.

Come on folks, where are you?

**Please send Bulletin contributions by email to [redacted] by post to [redacted]**

**The deadline for the August issue is 1st August.**

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday July 19 – General meeting

**Sunday July 30 – Field trip Moora**

Wednesday August 16 – General meeting

Wednesday September 20 – Gen. Meeting

**September 30/October 2 (Long Weekend) - Field trip Manjimup area\***

**Oct 14/15 – Field trip**

**Boddington/Kojonup/Boyup Brook\***

**\*Further details to be advised**

## FIELD TRIPS

**SUNDAY 30 JULY – MOORA**

Trip Leader is Eddy Wajon, however we will be meeting some Moora locals and visiting some of their locations around Moora.

Meet at the Moora Shire Council Offices (on the main road through Moora) at 10.00 am.

Please advise Ross Fox [redacted] if attending or if you change your mind.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

**YALLINGUP AREA 23 – 26 MAY 2006**

On the way to Yallingup we stopped on Old Coast Road near Bagieau Road for morning tea and found some *Pterostylis* sp. in bud and also some rosettes on a large log.

We then continued south and met with Bill and Sarah where they were staying on a private property near Dunsborough. Here we found *Pterostylis* aff *nana* rosettes (crinkle-leaf), *Pt. vittata* flowers and buds, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp *dilatatus*, *Prasophyllum* aff *parvifolium*, as well as *Caladenia*, *Drakaea* and *Pyrorchis nigricans* leaves.

Over the next days we explored around Yallingup, Caves Road, Willyabrup, Meelup and Dunsborough, finding leaves of various types including *Diuris*, *Thelymitra* (possibly aff *holmesii* or *macrophylla*), *Lyperanthus serratus*, *Cyrtostylis*. Only one *Praecoxanthus aphyllus* was seen, going to seed. Of interest were two tall *Eriochilus dilatatus* ssp *dilatatus* of 640mm and 700mm, with 12 and 11 flowers respectively.

**Ross Fox**

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**by WAYNE MERRITT**

The following were found -

25th April Brookton Area

*G nigricans*, *E dilatatus* ssp *undulatus*, *L fimbriata*.

7th May Ruabon Area

*E dilatatus* ssp *multiflorus*, *L fimbriata* & *Praecoxanthus aphyllus*.

7th May Wonnerup Area

*E dilatatus* ssp *dilatatus*

13th May Mt. Dale Area

*E helonomos*

31st May Corrigin Area

*C drummondii*, *R gardneri*, also

*Pt sargentii* in bud.

31st May Babakin Area

*C drummondii* and *R gardneri*. Note many flowers of *R gardneri* seen,



probably due to Jan/Feb rains.  
Pollinator also seen.

3 rd June Beedelup Falls Area

*E dilatatus* ssp *magnus*

3rd June Mt Chudalup Area

*E pulchellus*, *P aff parvifolium*, *Pt vittata*.

9th June Bunbury Area

*E helonomos*

9th June Dunsborough Area

*Pt aspera*, *Pt vittata*.

9th June Eaton Area

*Pt angusta*

17th June Mogumber Area

Very dry, found no *T apiculata*.

### **CONSERVATION OF CALADENIA HUEGELII**

I have had some involvement on the fringes in relation to a recent acquisition by the WA Planning Commission of 5.53 hectares of Banksia woodland in the Huntingdale area, for preservation of a wide but thin distribution of *Caladenia huegelii*.

Some of the background history and mechanics of the conservation/acquisition process may be of interest to members, and this is as under:

- The land had been zoned Urban under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There was also zoned "Residential 17.5" by the local authority.
- A developer purchased this site in November 2002, paying urban land value and assuming it could be developed for housing.
- Planning authorities approved residential development of the land – but with a condition that measures be taken to identify and protect any vegetation worthy of retention.
- The approval also included "Advices to the Applicant" that the applicant should liaise with CALM in respect to compliance with the Wildlife Conservation

Act 1950 - reference was also made to the possibility of declared rare flora potential in the vicinity.

- The developer appointed an environmental consultant to do a botanical survey in late spring. Eleven plants of *C huegelii* were found, spread widely over the whole parcel.
- The presence of the critically endangered flora affected the precondition. CALM and the Department of the Environment objected to the project proceeding. The matter was also referred to the Minister in relation to the Commonwealth's Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Due to the above objections the development proposal was stopped.
- The provisions of the Wild Life Conservation Act 1950 (Section 23F) (7) states "where an owner/occupier of private land who has been refused consent to take rare flora on that land satisfies the Minister that he will suffer loss or use or enjoyment of the land by reason of that refusal, the Minister shall inform the Treasurer in writing accordingly and the owner or occupier shall be paid compensation for that loss at a rate or rates per annum as –
  - Is agreed between the owner or occupier and the Treasurer, or;
  - In default of agreement, it is determined by a valuer appointed by agreement between the Treasurer and the owner or occupier or in default of agreement on such an appointment, by a valuer appointed by the Minister.



Section 23f(9) also has pertinent compensation provisions.

Following implementation of the valuation process and discussions between the affected parties, the site was purchased from the land owner/prospective developer by the WA Planning Commission, for conservation purposes.

The above example provides confirmation that even if land is appropriately zoned or approved for development, the subsequent discovery of declared rare flora prior to the land clearing, can result in a moratorium on planned development and, with the willingness of relevant authorities, eventuate in acquisition for conservation purposes.

Jeff Spencer

### **C LONGICAUDA COMPLEX A TALK by NOEL CLARKE.**

This talk was a PowerPoint presentation that included a comparison table and individual slides of the subspecies with a short description and maps showing the distribution of all the subspecies (A dogs breakfast that Pro Hart would be proud of).

The way to approach identification is to divide the complex into 3 groups: -

- 1 Those with columns less than 18mm which include *ssp albella*, *borealis*, *calcigena*, *clavicola*, *redacta* & *rigidula*.
- 2 Those with columns greater than 18 mm long which include *crassa*, *merrittii* & *longicauda*.
- 3 Those with labellums more than 10 mm wide which include *ssp australora* & *eminens*.

The distribution overlaps but when you compare the distribution & the habitat it makes identification fairly simple. Unfortunately I cannot include the maps in this article as they are in colour. Try drawing 3 maps yourself, one for each group.

### **ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY MY EXPERIENCES & HINTS by Noel Clarke**

Many years of photographing orchids have produced a mixed bag of results, some good and a lot bad. My efforts have all been a trial & error method. I started with a Pentax MX camera with a general-purpose lens. To get close up shots I first bought an adjustable lens that screwed on to the general lens. Not being satisfied I graduated to a set of extension tubes that worked well except for the nuisance of changing tubes to suit the different size orchids. One of the tubes with the lens is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way up Mt Cooke. This forced me to buy a 90mm macro lens that made orchid photography easier.

Initially I never used flash & was converted by the often overcast or windy conditions. The flash seems to stop the subject waving around. My early attempts were with the flash on the camera. I had several attempts to photograph *R gardneri*, getting good shots of the bracts with dark interiors till finally I mounted the flash on a tripod aligned to illuminate the flowers inside the bracts. I used this system for a while eventually giving it away because the flash cord kept falling off or breaking.

Eventually in time the ground got further away and because of my deteriorating eyesight I invested in a digital camera, an Olympus Camedia 5 mega pixel unit. The screen flips 90° so there is no more need to sit or lie down. If I did it would take hours for me to get up again.

Another advantage is that the picture can be seen immediately so that you can finish with a shot to your liking and not have to go back next year.

The down side is that with small subjects using auto focus the background is in focus while the flower isn't. I now use manual focus with a portrait setting. The portrait setting blurs the background & the manual



setting has a magnifying ability to assist focusing.

The screen can be hard to see in daylight. I overcame this by making a hood to fit over the screen; you can buy a hood purpose made for the job. Many members have commented on my shaking hands when I'm lining up (the rest of the time as well). My reply is that I shake in synchronisation with the movement of the plant. Anyway with the digital I just keep taking photos till everything comes together and I end up with an image I'm satisfied with. So much for my experience with cameras, now for the actual photos.

Ideally 3 photos should be taken of each plant, the whole plant including the leaf, the flower & any identifying feature. This can be a tall order when it comes to the large *Prasophyllums*. The identifying feature of *Thelymitras* is the column, make sure you include the column in the photo. The greenhoods, particularly the Rufa group, require the tongue. Make sure the tongue is not triggered before you take your photo; snail, shell & *vittata* types all look better with their tongues showing. One of the identifying features of snails is the leaf. Happy hunting.

#### **NARROGIN FIELD TRIP 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY by NOEL CLARKE**

8 members and a happy French visitor, Etienne Dlammoi (France won their soccer match) gathered at Williams.

At an ungodly hour John Ewing & I stopped at Foxley Place on our way to Christine & Tony's House & found *P. parvifolium* accompanied with the stench of a freezer of rotten fish. While still asleep & being early, we checked out the parking bay about 13 km North of Williams. The dry conditions were immediately evident. We found *Pt hamiltonii* in a small colony, *Pt recurva* in bud only & *Pt sanguinea* a little distressed.

After meeting the group at Williams we proceeded to Manaring Reserve on the Narrogin Rd. The reward here was only *Pt sanguinea* in flower & no *Pt aff nana* rosettes. Usually this site has 3 different *Pt aff nana* species. This was the order of the day at all sites we visited.

Our next site was Foxes Lair where *Pt concava* & *sanguinea* were in flower. Yilliminning Rock was our lunch spot. I stayed down the base while the rest climbed the rock. All I found was leaves of *C chapmanii* & *PT concava*. The climbers reported seeing *Pt aspera*, *hamiltonii*, *concava* & *aff nana* (hairy stem).

The gravel pit down the road was almost bare; it was so poor I didn't record anything.

Birdwhistle Rock was as bad though here we did find some *Pt angusta*.

We returned to Perth via Brookton and called in at Williams Rd. This site has reverted back to Williams Rd from Skeets Place. All we found here was *Pt hamiltonii* & *sanguinea*.

I suggest staying to the south coast area till we get that rare commodity rain.

My thanks to John Ewing for driving me to & from Christine's place & to Christine for ferrying me around all day. I am sure I would not have made it driving myself.

|                  | <b>RAFFLE ROSTER<br/>2006</b> | <b>SPEAKER<br/>2006</b>  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>MARCH</b>     | G & T Blinco                  | Noel Clarke - "Orchids of South Australia" courtesy of Barb and Ken Bayley |
| <b>APRIL</b>     | Donna Wajon                   | Noel Clarke - The <i>Caladenia magniclavata</i> complex                    |
| <b>MAY</b>       | Ross Fox                      | Nigel Swarts - <i>Caladenia huegelii</i>                                   |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | G & S Stack                   | Noel Clarke - The <i>Caladenia longicauda</i> complex                      |
| <b>JULY</b>      | Wayne Merritt                 | Dr Stephen Hopper - WA Orchids in Retrospect                               |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    |                               |  |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | Sarah Atkinson                |  |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | Noel Clarke                   |  |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | Christine Lock                |  |

Any takers for the August raffle? Please advise the Secretary.

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#### **FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday 30th July - Moora

Long Weekend 30 September/2 October - Manjimup area

Saturday/Sunday 14/15 October - Boddington/Kojonup overnight/Boyup Brook

Other field trips to be arranged.